**ONE WORLD FESTIVAL HAS OFFICIALLY BEEN LAUNCHED: THE HOMO HOMINI AWARD WAS AWARDED TO THE AZERBAIJANI EDITORIAL OFFICE OF ABZAS MEDIA AND PRESENTED BY DIRECTOR AGNIESZKA HOLLAND**

Press Release

19 March 2024

**On the evening of March 19th, the grand opening of the 26th edition of One World Festival unfolded at Prague Crossroads. Among its esteemed traditions is the presentation of the Homo Homini human rights award, which this year was given to the Azerbaijani anti-corruption platform Abzas Media. Director Agnieszka Holland presented the award to Leyla Mustafayeva, the newly appointed editor-in-chief, who accepted on behalf of her fellow journalists who have been imprisoned by the authoritarian regime. This year’s festival, which is organised by non-profit organisation People in Need, is set to unfold in a remarkable 48 cities across the Czech Republic from 20 March to 21 April 2024. Featuring a diverse array of films addressing human rights issues, engaging debates with global guests, and captivating short films for children, One World promises to be an enriching and edifying experience for all. In Prague, the festival will run from 20 to 28 March 2024. Explore the full program at** [**www.oneworld.cz/programme**](http://www.oneworld.cz/programme)**.**

To kick off the ceremonial evening, **director Agnieszka Holland spoke**, addressing, among other things, the state of human rights in the world around us. *“On the one hand, there is the cradle of freedom and solidarity, democracy, and human rights. On the other hand, the worst imaginable crimes against humanity. Festivals like One World play a tremendous role in raising awareness. They serve as vital platforms for spreading both knowledge and empathy,"* said the director.

Agnieszka Holland handed the Homo Homini Award to the **editor-in-chief** of Abzas Media, **Leyla Mustafayeva**. After her speech addressing the state of press freedom in Azerbaijan and the activities of the Abzas Media editorial team, presenter Linda Bartošová read aloud a letter written from prison by one of the arrested members of the Abzas Media newsroom, Ulvi Hasanli, addressed to his young daughter.

The Azerbaijani platform Abzas Media was awarded the Homo Homini for their investigative journalism aimed at exposing governmental corruption. Mustafayeva accepted the award on behalf of her fellow journalists, including co-founder Ulvi Hasanli and editor-in-chief Sevinj Vagifgizi, both of whom have been imprisoned by the regime.

Since 1994, People in Need has been honouring individuals and groups with the Homo Homini award for their significant contributions to defending human rights, democracy, and promoting non-violent resolutions of political conflicts.

Following the award ceremony, there was a performance by Azerbaijani rapper Jamal Ali and a screening of the film [***Terrestrial Verses***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/films/53702-terrestrial-verses) by directors Ali Asgari and Alireza Khatami.

[**The opening screening for the public**](http://www.oneworld.cz/programme) **will take place on Wednesday, 20 March at Cinema Lucerna in Prague**. Audiences will have the chance to see the Oscar-winning documentary [***20 Days in Mariupol***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/films/53552-20-days-in-mariupol) by director Mstyslav Chernov. The critically acclaimed film not only reveals the behind-the-scenes of war journalism but also covers the fates of ordinary people living in a war-torn country. **After the screening, there will be a debate** with an eyewitness of the war horrors from Mariupol. Also joining the discussion will be Nadiia Ivanova, the director of the Center for Human Rights and Democracy. René Kočík moderates.

In addition to Prague, One World Festival is also kicking off in other cities across the Czech Republic. Audiences can look forward to **traditional competitive sections** such as the [**International Competition**](https://www.oneworld.cz/vodnany/film-categories/451-international-competition), [**Czech Competition**](https://www.oneworld.cz/vodnany/film-categories/460-czech-competition), [**Right to Know Competition**](https://www.oneworld.cz/film-categories/452-right-to-know), and the [**Immersive Films Competition**](https://www.oneworld.cz/roznov-pod-radhostem/film-categories/462-immersive-films-competition), as well as films shown under **7 non-competitive thematic categories**, which includes [**Identities**](https://www.oneworld.cz/film-categories/456-identities), [**Structures of Power**](https://www.oneworld.cz/vodnany/film-categories/455-structures-of-power), [**The Middle East**](https://www.oneworld.cz/usti-nad-labem/film-categories/453-middle-east), [**Ecosystems**](https://www.oneworld.cz/film-categories/458-ecosystems), [**Searching for Freedom**](https://www.oneworld.cz/vodnany/film-categories/459-searching-for-freedom), [**On the Edge of Maturity**](https://www.oneworld.cz/film-categories/454-on-the-edge-of-maturity), and [**Communities**](https://www.oneworld.cz/film-categories/457-communities). New to the festival this year are **fictional films** centred on human rights themes.

Both foreign and Czech films will compete for this year’s jury awards. Among Czech filmmakers presenting their films at the festival include directors Dagmar Smržová ([***The Body in My Head***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/56160-the-body-in-my-head)), Apolena Rychlíková ([***Limits of Europe***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/55261-limits-of-europe)), and Robert Kirchhoff ([***All Men Become Brothers***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/55114-all-men-become-brothers)). The festival will traditionally host many international guests, including the director of the film [***A Shaman's Tale***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/56173-a-shaman-s-tale), in which a Yakut shaman embarks on an 8,000 kilometre journey to Moscow to overthrow Vladimir Putin, and director Ibrahim Nashat, who will present his documentary [***Hollywoodgate***](https://www.oneworld.cz/films/55196-hollywoodgate), which was filmed under the Taliban.

As part of its rich accompanying program, One World will offer not only discussions with guests from around the world but also a [**masterclass by Agnieszka Holland**](https://www.oneworld.cz/programme), which is due to take place on 20 March at 6:00 pm in the Municipal Library.

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

**●** Tickets are on sale now on GoOut. Audience members can also purchase tickets at the Lucerna infostand from 19 March, and at cinema box offices from 20 March. The uniform ticket price is 130 CZK per screening.

● Holders of disability cards (ZTP, ZTP/P) and audience members over the age of 65 are entitled to a 50% discount on all screenings.

● Guardians accompanying ZTP/P cardholders get free entry.

● The press centre, where we will issue press accreditations during the festival, can be found on the 1st floor of the People in Need Centre – Langhans (Vodičkova 37, Prague). It will be open from 20 to 28 March from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

● Three infostands will be open throughout the festival – one in the Lucerna arcade, the second in the foyer of the Prague Municipal Library, and the third at the Pilotů Cinema box office. Here you can obtain all the necessary information about the festival and purchase festival merch, which is also available for purchase in the One World [**e-shop**](https://muj.jedensvet.cz/shop/).

● This year, we will also be offering direct ticket sales at infostands. Audience members can purchase tickets to any cinema for any screening here. The tickets will also be printed out on the spot for your convenience.

● This year will also see the return of discounted ticket packages on GoOut. Three such packages will be on offer. The first is 3 tickets for 330 CZK, the second is 5 tickets for 550 CZK, and the third is 10 tickets + 2 film rentals on One World Online for 1100 CZK.

● Information on cinema accessibility and accessibility options throughout the festival are available online at [www.oneworld.cz/accessibility](https://www.oneworld.cz/accessibility). In the programme section of the festival website, it is also possible to filter your search results to find screenings that suit your accessibility needs.

For more details about the festival and downloadable materials, visit [www.oneworld.cz](http://www.oneworld.cz).

You can also play this year's festival jingle [here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfZhppIAPjA).

**Press Contacts**

**Jan Kovalík**, Head of Media Communication and PR, jan.kovalik@clovekvtisni.cz

**Eva Müllerová**, Media Coordinator, eva.mullerova@clovekvtisni.cz, +420 720 208 552